

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MADRID 08588 262119Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 DOTE-00 /021 W
-----074780 272106Z /15
R 262107Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5502
INFO AMCONSUL BARCELONA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 08588

E.O. 11652:GDS
TAGS: US, SP, ETRN
SUBJ: NTSB TEAM VISIT TO SPAIN

REF: A. STATE 178368; B. MADRID 8089; C. STATE 179261

1. NTSB TEAM DEPARTED SPAIN JULY 26 FOLLOWING TEN DAYS OF INFORMATION GATHERING ON JULY 11 ACCIDENT OF PROPYLENE TRUCK AT SAN CARLOS DE LA RAPITA. AS ARRANGED BY THE EMBASSY, ALL ACTIVITIES OF THE TEAM WERE CARRIED OUT WITH THE APPROVAL OF AND IN COORDINATION WITH A SPANISH INTERMINISTERIAL INVESTIGATING COMMISSION HEADED BY JOSE LUIS GARCIA LOPEZ, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF LAND TRANSPORT, MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATION. GARCIA LOPEZ HAS INFORMED THE EMBASSY IN WRITING THAT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH THE NTSB TEAM WAS PROVIDED ACCESS TO DOCUMENTS AND OTHER DATA ON THE ACCIDENT, ALL INFORMATION DEVELOPED IS TO BE USED FOR ANALYSIS AND FORMULATION OF CONCLUSIONS BY THE GOS COMMISSION AND MAY NOT RPT NOT BE MADE PUBLIC PRIOR TO COMPLETION OF THE COMMISSION'S REPORT. HE ADDS THAT ALL OFFICIAL INFORMATION ON THE ACCIDENT IS SUBJECT TO SPANISH JUDICIAL PROCESS AND CAN ONLY BE PUBLISHED BY THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT. THE NTSB TEAM UNDERSTANDS THIS LIMITATION AND HAVE AGREED THAT THE INFORMATION THEY HAVE ACCUMULATED WILL BE FOR INTERNAL U.S. GOVERNMENT
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USE ONLY.

2. THE NTSB TEAM MEMBERS PERFORMED IN A MOST PROFESSIONAL AND COOPERATIVE MANNER IN ALL OF THEIR DEALINGS WITH SPANISH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. COMPLETION OF THEIR MISSION WAS MADE POSSIBLE, HOWEVER, ONLY BY THE EMBASSY'S INTERVENTION WITH APPROPRIATE GOS AUTHORITIES WHO IN

TURN PROVIDED FULL ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND WRECKAGE MATERIALS UNDER CONDITION THAT IT BE TREATED CONFIDENTIALLY. TO AVOID DELAYS AND THE POSSIBILITY OF MISUNDERSTANDING OR EMBARRASSMENT IN ANY FUTURE ACCIDENT INVESTIGATIONS, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE NTSB MAKE ITS INTEREST KNOWN IMMEDIATELY SO THAT ANY ACTIVITIES OF AN INVESTIGATION TEAM CAN BE AUTHORIZED IN ADVANCE BY THE HOST GOVERNMENT. TODMAN

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Message Attributes

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